

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 1999-345-C - ORDER NO. 1999-675
SEPTEMBER 23, 1999

IN RE: Notification of BellSouth Telecommunications,) ORDER DENYING ✓ MR
Inc. of its Intent to Elect to have Rates, Terms,) IXCS REQUEST
and Conditions for its Services Regulated under)
the Alternative Form of Regulation.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the August 25, 1999 letter of MCI WorldCom (MCI) and AT&T Communications of the Southern States (AT&T) (collectively, the IXCs), wherein the IXCs urge us to require BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) to submit its proposed guidelines under its S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-576 (Supp. 1998) alternative regulation plan within ten (10) days. For the reasons stated below, we deny the request.

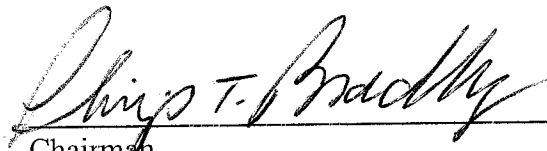
The IXCs August 25 letter was prompted by BellSouth's August 13, 1999 letter, which stated that BellSouth would submit the guidelines contemplated by S.C. Code Ann. Section 58-9-576(B)(5)(Supp. 1998) within ninety (90) days of August 13. MCI and AT&T allege in their letter that ninety (90) days is too lengthy a period. The IXCs allege that, among other reasons, BellSouth has had more than four months to develop the required guidelines, since BellSouth noticed its intent to elect the alternative regulation plan on April 19, 1999. MCI and AT&T also argue that, in order to insure non-discriminatory rates, the guidelines should be established. The IXCs also allege that the

guidelines should be provided prior to oral arguments on the Consumer Advocate's earnings review Petition.

Whereas we understand the IXC's points, we would note that BellSouth's alternative regulation plan has only been in effect since August 13, 1999, and, therefore, is relatively new to BellSouth. While understanding the IXC's concerns about non-discriminatory rates, we must point out that the drafting of guidelines contemplated by the statute is very complex. A great deal of thought must be employed to develop such guidelines properly. We believe that the ninety (90) days contemplated by BellSouth for filing of the guidelines is very reasonable, given these considerations. We therefore reject the ten (10) day period for drafting as contemplated by the IXC's, and hold that BellSouth shall file guidelines within ninety (90) days of the date of its August 13, 1999 letter, or on or before **November 12, 1999**.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)